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regeneration of the world, as the natural result of the history of France and Europe.

Every schoolboy, as Macaulay would say, knows that the French Revolution sprang from the combination of material grievances and intellectual ferment, and that it was the latter which made the former more fiercely resented. Among the factors which compelled the French bourgeoisie to think and to ask questions about public affairs two stand out pre-eminent—the writings of Rousseau and the revolt of the American Colonies. It is a curious coincidence that neither of the two men who have played perhaps the greatest part in the political life of modern France were Frenchmen; for the one was born in Corsica and the other in Geneva. The style of Jean Jacques was an open passport in the land where literary expression is honoured as the greatest of the arts ; and his challenge to the social and political order of the age of Louis XV was delivered with the force and directness of a blow. "L'homme est nd libre," begins the *Contrat Social*, "et partout il est dans les fers." Here in a single sentence was ammunition enough to lay the battlements of feudal Europe in ruins. Like other great explosive influences he combines destruction with construction, mixing criticism with hope. Society is evil, but man is by nature good. To substitute the rule of the people for the tyranny or one, to replace the Roman Church, with its ekborate institutions and dogmas, by the natural pieties implanted in the~ human heart, to restore the simplicity of family life, to humanize education, to follow, in a word, the dictates of reason and conscience : here was the way to build a new and happier world.

If Rousseau's burning pages were devoured by every one who could read, the revolt of the American colonies, in the

success of which France played a decisive part,
proved that a
determined people could change its
government and create
a prosperous and orderly society without king,
nobility, or a
state church. The impression on the Old World
was deepened
by the ringing sentences in which Jefferson
proclaimed the
rights of man and of peoples. " We hold these
truths to be
self-evident," runs the Declaration of
Independence, " that all
men are created equal; that they are endowed by
their Creator
with certain inalienable rights, among them life,
liberty and
the pursuit of happiness ; that to secure these
rights Govern-
ments are instituted among men, deriving their
just powers from
the consent of the governed; that whenever
any form of